

Terror Old Story In Iraq

C.I.A. - Iraq

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A matter of continuing concern, often despair, to Jewish people not only in Israel but in the United States and other Western nations is the welfare of fellow Jews in Arab countries.

Policies on emigration from these countries have been spotty. Great numbers of Jews have been allowed to leave the Arab world, minus all their possessions, and have been resettled in Israel. This is a side of the refugee question which has received little attention.

The treatment of those Jews remaining in Arab countries varies greatly from reasonable tolerance to outright persecution.

The records are particularly bad in Iraq and Syria, where suspicion and hatred, plot and counterplot abound even among non-Jews and where punishment for suspected wrong-doing may take particularly barbarous forms. Jews may be especially vulnerable to the whims of those uneasy rulers who constantly fear plots against their lives.

Past conspiracies in Iraq have reflected Communist influences and pro-Nasserism. Violent death has been the fate either of those temporarily in

power or of the conspirators who failed.

The Middle East pressure cooker has been heated still further by the hanging in Iraq of 11 persons suspected of spying for Israel. 9 of them Jews. Others are awaiting trial on additional charges, including espionage for the CIA. Cries of outrage have risen around the world. They have included demands in Israel for massive retaliation.

Emotion is all the higher because the trials are widely believed to be a mockery. Many anti-U.S. governments find it a convenient tool to link the CIA with subversion in their countries.

The government of Iraq is not stable enough to be dealt with on a rational basis, and reason now finds infertile soil among the aroused and indignant Israelis. This new development has the potential to blow an existing crisis wide open.

The boiling pot in the Middle East was there to greet President Nixon when he took office. He wants to cool it down before it sets the two nuclear superpowers against each other. This is a more urgent order of business than the Vietnam war.

He Had To Hang It Somewhere

